

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2724
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
PRIVATISATION OF COAL MINES
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the captive coal blocks of the Western Coalfields Ltd. of Pench and Kanhan area have been allocated to private sector for coal mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the employees and trade union of WCL are against privatisation of coal mines and have submitted their point of view on it; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government/ the Coal India Limited thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO)

- (a)& (b): No captive coal blocks in the Pench and Kanhan area of the Western Coalfields (WCL) have been allocated to private sector for coal mining. However, the Mandla North, Rawanwara North, Brahmapuri and Sialghoghri coal blocks in the Pench and Kanhan area of WCL have been offered for allocation for captive mining.
- (c): The Central Trade Unions have been expressing their apprehension against privatisation of coal mining industry and have been opposing the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 introduced in Rajya Sabha to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 which seeks to allow an Indian company to undertake coal mining without the present restrictions of captive use.
- (d): There is no move to privatise Coal India Limited, or its subsidiary companies or the coal mines being operated by them, at present.